

A ceremony for two people who want to change their wedding vows

Example Vow:

I VOW to be your companion and your support, to walk step-by-step with you at your side. We are soul mates, brought together in love for a union that's meant to be. I will not wittingly hinder you nor stand in your way, but I give you my promise to be faithful to the special contract that we make together. I am wedded to you, your loyal friend, and I promise to give you all of my self that will best serve you. With my vow made today, I promise to help you grow into the [man/woman] that you are meant to be, as you promise to help me. I will be your mirror, your soul's complement, your lover. I honour you and accept you as you are, imperfect like me, but beautiful and precious beyond measure.

Ceremony intention

- Acknowledge that time and circumstance allow vows to be changed, although they are heart-meant and proper at the time they are made.
- Allow new vows to be exchanged.
- Ask that the couple's growth and future together will be blessed.

Ceremony elements

Prayers: invocation, prayer and blessing for the couple's life together, reminder of the intention of why they came to marry [or be together], exchanging of vows, closing blessing.

Readings/reflections: welcome, minister's address, poems/readings, selection from:

Apache song: Now you will feel no rain, Dorothy R. Colgan: I Promise, Wilfred Arlan

Peterson: The Art of a Good Marriage, Troy Williams: What I have been missing.

Commitments: family and friends of the parents may offer their support by forming an arch as the couple leaves or arrives. Vows may be exchanged by passing scrolls to each other, or with a 'tied-knot' handshake, as well as being spoken out loud. For small, online ceremonies, a candle may be lit by the couple, or they may exchange scrolls. Items (e.g. photograph of the couple's marriage ceremony) that are meaningful for the couple's love and life together might be placed on the altar.

Symbols/actions: lighting of one larger candle from two others, to signify the meeting of two souls, pouring of different coloured sand into one beaker.

Music: selected by the couple (suggested: celebratory, reflective).

Blessing:

Great Spirit and Bestower of all Life, bless dear [NAMES] this day and always, we pray. Fill them with Your power, Your wisdom and Your love. Give them strength to withstand difficulty and knowledge to inspire their growing in understanding together. Give them courage to confront what concerns them, and grace to be gentle and worthy supporters of each other. Heal them of all past wounds that might hold back their outpouring of love for each other, and keep them safe in the majestic journey that they now travel together. Bless this beautiful partnership, we pray. Amen.

Prayer for the exchanging of vows

[Name's and Name's] love has endured for [years]. Through good and difficult times they have supported and nurtured each other, staying faithful to the promises that

brought them together. In forming their partnership, they never doubted that each was meant for the other. They have served and honoured their commitments to grow and teach each other. Be with them now as they refresh their vows to each other). Inspire their hearts to be filled with love for each other as they celebrate their unique and precious partnership. May it be so.